

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

The abstract was objected to as it was not in narrative form and was not limited to a single paragraph. Applicants have provided a new Abstract page with a revised abstract with the corrections as set forth below.

PO7986
LeA 36518-US

PROCESS FOR THE TWO-STEP PRODUCTION OF DINITROTOLUENE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention relates to a process for the production of dinitrotoluene by the two-stage nitration of toluene. ~~The In the process consists of~~

a) — a first stage of this process, wherein toluene is was reacted adiabatically with nitrating acid ~~such so~~ that at least 90% of the toluene is was reacted off and no more than 70% of the toluene ~~used reacts to form~~ formed dinitrotoluene. The resulting, the organic phase containing mononitrotoluene and the aqueous acid phase containing sulfuric acid ~~are then were~~ separated, and the aqueous acid phase containing sulfuric acid is was concentrated by flash evaporation. The, ~~and the~~ resulting concentrated sulfuric acid is was recycled into the reaction in the first stage, and/or into the reaction in the second stage, and/or into the concentration in the second stage,

and

b) — a In the second stage, wherein the organic phase containing mononitrotoluene from the first stage is was completely reacted isothermally with nitrating acid, ~~the~~ The organic phase and the aqueous acid phase containing sulfuric acid are were then separated, and the aqueous acid phase containing sulfuric acid is ~~was~~ concentrated by vacuum evaporation, ~~and the~~ The resulting concentrated sulfuric acid is was recycled into the reaction in the first stage and/or the second stage.